



DigitALL Final Report

Executive Summary

DigitALL is a Tech Manitoba initiative dedicated to improving Manitoban's skills and confidence with computers and the internet through hands-on training courses. Tech Manitoba received funding for DigitALL from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) between June 2019 and March 2022.

The initiative targeted two streams to support digital literacy needs in communities across Manitoba. The Community Learners stream focused on underrepresented community members looking for basic computer training. The second stream supported educators in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) public school system looking to improve how they utilize and incorporate technology to improve digital literacy in the classroom.



TECHMB  Is one of our province's major tech industry associations, with:

191 corporate
members

and representing over

10,000
Employers

Long-standing reputation

+

Vast network

+

Legacy as a champion for Manitoba's tech sector

=

DIGIT^{ALL}

TECH TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the vulnerabilities of both streams targeted by the program. Owning a computer and having access to online resources and services became a lifeline for education, employment, friends and family, and critical information regarding health and finances.

Paula Canas is the Tech Manitoba Program Manager who worked with her team Joel Templeman, Education Specialist, and Anthony Leong, Program Coordinator, to develop and adapt the DigitALL program prior to and throughout the pandemic. The team designed, organized, and executed nine separate projects during the initiative, each of which is highlighted in this report.

Tech Manitoba is one of our province's major tech industry associations, with 191 corporate members and representing over 10,000 employers. The organization's long-standing reputation, vast network, and legacy as a champion for Manitoba's tech sector created the conditions to make DigitALL possible.



During Anne Kjaer Bathel's keynote at Tech Manitoba's Disrupted conference, the Co-Founder and CEO of ReDI School of Digital Integration told attendees that it's short-sighted not to view technology as a basic human right. Access to digital literacy skills, the internet, and proper equipment are essential to participating in this digital world.

This sentiment was echoed in DigitALL's own programming, with a keynote speech from Dr. Glenys MacLeod, Executive Director of the Learning and Outcomes Branch at Manitoba Education. In a conference dedicated to new teachers entering K-12 schools, she told them that the new criteria for intelligence is the ability to recognize a problem, define its variables, build its potential, and create a solution that will be valuable to society.

Given that new problems arise with countless unknowns, "learning to learn" is the greatest skill that educators can teach their students. To achieve these goals, schools, classes, teachers must be able to create a culture of curiosity and adventure. Expeditionary Learning is one way to build inclusive communities from big, rich, and authentic curriculum-based questions. Technology, properly integrated and supported, can provide the tools needed to facilitate this kind of life-long self-motivated learning. It is not learning computers for the sake of computers, but mastering the devices that bring the world of knowledge to our fingertips.

These philosophies fueled the program throughout the initiative. Tech Manitoba is proud of the work accomplished by the DigitALL team, dedicated partners, and willing participants. Despite all of the progress made, DigitALL also recognizes that Manitoba's communities continue to have enormous gaps in access to technology and digital literacy skills. In a world rooted in all things digital, the need for these initiatives continues.



Streams

Stream 1

DigitALL delivered computer courses across Manitoba, serving 3397 Community Learners. This stream included seniors, new Canadians, Indigenous communities, women, and low-income people wanting to improve their skills and confidence using computers and the internet.

The team worked with a network of incredible community partners to plan courses, choose topics, and arrange schedules that accommodated their communities. Classes were nine hours long - usually distributed over three days, and divided into three-hour training segments.

Accommodations were made to prioritize community needs. For example, three hours of computer training can be overwhelming for seniors, so DigitALL offered 1.5-to-two-hour sessions with several short breaks over a four-to-five-day period to better serve the need.

COVID-19 restrictions also presented challenges that affected the number of projected participants including facilities closing, social distancing, a reluctance to take online courses, lack of adequate connectivity, and access to appropriate technology and software.

Ultimately, the program goal was to make participants feel comfortable using technology. The team always looked for innovative ways to make classes more beneficial to participants and focus on the topics most relevant to help increase digital literacy.

**Please note that people counted themselves in more than one category for the breakdown of these demographics.*

Demographics Community Learners

Over 65 years old	375
Women	1049
No English in the home	529
Language minorities	134+
Low income	1193
Indigenous People	391
People with disabilities	116
Not a Canadian citizen	523
Not born in Canada	652
Newcomers	529
Didn't complete high school	305

Streams

Stream 2 – K-12 Teachers

In stream two, DigitALL delivered customized, free tech training to 2341 teachers in the K-12 school system, so they could authentically integrate more technology use into their pedagogy, thus strengthening the digital literacy knowledge of their students and improving 21st century skills such as computational thinking and self-directed learning.

DigitALL provided professional development sessions directly to school divisions and their staff. 26 divisions were involved through our support in Professional Development provincial wide events such as the BYTE conference, the Riding the Wave conference, and the Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS) PD Day, each happening annually.

The desire for more support and resources to integrate technology into the classroom was already established by many Manitoba school divisions, the Department of Education, superintendents, and teachers. DigitALL worked with these partners and leveraged Tech Manitoba's industry network to develop the resources and training to address these gaps.

Topics tackled in the teachers' stream included:

- Microsoft Teams
- Google Workspace
- Micro:bit Educational Foundation
- Minecraft in the classroom
- coding and computational thinking
- STEAM
- Adobe Premiere
- Smartboards
- Microsoft Office
- Technology integration in Project-Based Learning
- Open Educational Practices/Resources
- Podcasts as a teaching tool

Partnerships

The success of the program could not be possible without the incredible community partnerships that came on board throughout the initiative. As the province's tech association, Tech Manitoba recognizes how essential partnerships are to establishing a thriving tech community. The program leveraged Tech Manitoba's wide range of partners to meet the initiative's goal to maintain good relationships with existing partners and create new partnerships.

The DigitALL team partnered with resource centers, adult education centers, immigrant and senior centers, universities and colleges to reach the Community Learners stream. These partners helped provide marketing and awareness for the DigitALL training courses. They offered the facilities to deliver the courses and shared their knowledge on what their community members need in digital literacy training.

The team believed participants would feel more comfortable taking courses with an instructor from their community, so when possible, these partners provided teachers for the training courses. These instructors also gathered the demographics required for reporting, conducted surveys and collected comments to help improve the program. Their help was invaluable and many went above and beyond with assisting students in need after the class was over with technical difficulties and questions or concerns about navigating safely online.

DigitALL also created many incredible partnerships with Manitoba's school divisions, Faculties of Education, educational companies, universities and colleges to reach the teachers' stream. The collaboration with the staff from these institutions played a fundamental role with DigitALL's success in reaching the teacher stream.

**Please see the back Appendix for DigitALL's full list of partners.*



DigitALL Projects

Tech Manitoba launched nine specialized projects throughout the program tailored to meet the needs of the initiative's community learners or instructors. Each project is broken into three sections: problem, action, and outcomes to create a sense of scope.

Project #1

Computer Pop up labs in Portage Place and The Forks

Project #2

Creation and purchasing of a computer mobile lab

Project #3:

Pinamootang and Sap remote Indigenous Communities - CompTIA IT Fundamentals+

Project #4

Pivot from in-person classes to equipment delivery with learning materials

Project #5

Pivoted to online classes

Project #6

Training teachers online during COVID 19 lockdown

Project #7

Parent training Google classroom during COVID 19 lockdown in Winnipeg, 2020

Project #8

Pre-service Teacher Conference

Project #9

Marcel Colomb First Nation and Lynn Lake computer training

Project #1

Computer Pop up labs in Portage Place and The Forks

November – December 2019

Problem:

DigitALL aimed to reach underrepresented community members lacking basic computer skills, so the team needed a variety of strategies to reach them. The team used marketing budget to advertise courses on Facebook, newspapers, radio stations, and the [Tech Manitoba Website](#).

The team also created posters for each course, so partners could distribute them throughout the communities and asked them to share Tech Manitoba posts about DigitALL events on social media. But DigitALL recognized the need for another strategy to reach people who might not have social media or own a computer.

Action:

A new robust grassroots marketing strategy was launched and focused on two actions. First, the initiative ran pop-up computer labs at two important downtown Winnipeg locations: The Forks Market and Portage Place Shopping Centre. These are both well-known public spaces in Winnipeg where many of these community learners gather.

The pop-ups ran for two weeks at each location and DigitALL set up 10-12 computers. Experienced instructors taught on-the-fly computer skills by focusing on attendees' real-time needs and guided "Intro to Computer class" daily from 1 to 2 p.m.

DigitALL also leveraged the pop-up computer labs to market future programming to potential participants. The team created banners, brochures, posters and T-shirts for the staff to engage with the community and foster brand awareness in these high-traffic locations. The tri-folded brochures listed all the Winnipeg courses offered.

Outcomes:

Overall, the creative marketing campaign successfully delivered programming to the community learners' stream and promoted future classes. The team spoke with more than 350 people about the program, and more than 25 sat down at a pop-up and learned new computer or internet skills.



Project #2

Creation and purchasing of a computer mobile lab

November 2019

Problem:

After talking to several potential partners, the team realized that a computer lab was needed to deliver the program's basic computer classes throughout Manitoba in rural and remote areas.

Action:

DigitALL purchased 15 Dell laptop computers and all the materials needed to create a portable computer lab. The team found instructors willing to travel to rural Manitoba (mainly in winter) to deliver basic computer classes for full-day workshops. The team coordinated courses with different senior and employment centers in rural Manitoba.



Outcomes:

The computer mobile lab courses proved to be a huge success. Tech Manitoba learned that bringing the instructor and the computers to the community was a huge advantage. This was particularly helpful for reaching seniors, who could receive training to improve their computer skills in the comfort of their senior centers. DigitALL trained over 130 participants in the past year, and the majority of them were seniors and women.

Project #3

Pinamootang and Sap remote Indigenous Communities - CompTIA IT Fundamentals+

January 20-24, 2020

Problem:

Teachers and Teacher Support Workers from the First Nations communities of Little Saskatchewan, Pinaymootang, and Opaskwayak Cree Nation were underutilizing technologies in their classrooms because they didn't know how to use these tools.

Action:

DigitALL partnered with the Indigenous owned "Binesi Training Centre" in Winnipeg to facilitate three-day PD sessions focused on basic software use, smart board integration into instruction, computational thinking and an introduction to visual block coding. The teachers travelled to Winnipeg to receive this training. Binesi training Centre paid for the teachers' accommodation, travel and food and DigitALL provided a qualified CompTIA instructor and a Google certified instructor to deliver quality training.



Outcomes:

15 teachers from Pinamootang and Sap First Nation with a variety of computer skills attended the 3-day training. Each day they spent eight hours learning about tech skills which they took to their communities and used it to help and train other teachers. This training was a total success because those remote communities do not have access to this type of training or staff in their school specialized in the type of tech support they learned in this course.

Project #4

Pivot from in-person classes to equipment delivery with learning materials

May 2020 - Present

Problem:

During the first COVID-19 lockdown, DigitALL cancelled all in-person basic computer training courses but still had to meet measurables for the initiative's funders. During this time, Tech Manitoba started receiving a high volume of inquiries from partnering organizations and individuals needing equipment for low-income families.

This need was compounded by the educational institutions' shift to online classes to cope with pandemic protocols. During the pandemic, access to technology equipment became a priority, and DigitALL pivoted to address these gaps experienced by Manitoba's underrepresented communities.

Action:

Initially, DigitALL planned to distribute the 12 refurbished desktop computers the team had on hand. After contacting Computers for Schools Manitoba (C4SMB) for a potential partnership, they jumped on board and donated 200 refurbished desktop computers. Tech Manitoba put out a call that garnered local media attention asking people to nominate someone who didn't own a computer and tell the association why they deserved one for free.

Tech Manitoba received almost 800 nominations from across the province and some applicants from other provinces. DigitALL selected 212 recipients to people who did not own a computer. After reading all of the nominations, the team concluded that there was a huge demand for technical equipment for many people in Manitoba apart from digital literacy skills.

DigitALL continued to work with C4SMB, to move quickly and support more families and individuals in need. The team purchased more refurbished desktop computers at a significantly discounted rate from the non-profit organization, which was made possible through the program funding.

Project #4

Pivot from in-person classes to equipment delivery with learning materials

May 2020 - Present

Action continued:

Due to the increased workload, C4SMB allocated their intern, Anthony Leong, to assist DigitALL with refurbishing and preparing computers, tech support, and coordinating computer delivery and pickup. Anthony was an incredible support to the team, and eventually joined DigitALL as a Program Coordinator.

To manage expensive shipping costs, DigitALL worked with Tech Manitoba's partner Evotrax, who connected DigitALL with Gardewine. The company partnered with the initiative to distribute the packages across Manitoba for free.

Each recipient received one free refurbished desktop computer, which included a Windows Operating System, Microsoft Office, and an ethernet cable to connect the desktop computer to a

modem. To accomplish the program's digital literacy metrics for the quarter, the team also built-in resources focused on digital literacy.

Through a partnership with Eagle Vision, the team scripted, organized, and recorded ten basic learning videos preloaded onto each computer. This way, even people without internet connection still had access to the training tutorials.

They also developed instructional booklets to help recipients set up the computer and included exercises to practice using the mouse, navigating the desktop and using files and folders. Each recipient also received basic troubleshooting information and a tech support phone number.

Outcomes:

Between June 2020 – December 2021, DigitALL tapped into the needs of the community to distribute approximately 1,000 computers to underrepresented families and individuals throughout the province. Each computer included basic computer training tools to ensure DigitALL met key digital literacy metrics while adapting to new protocols throughout the pandemic.

Project #4

Pivot from in-person classes to equipment delivery with learning materials

May 2020 - Present

Outcomes continued:

Tech Manitoba's deeply connected network fostered new relationships to address the extreme technology gaps many people faced in our community. Motivated by this profound demand, the organization put out another call in 2021 for more nominations of people needing computers.

**Please note that people counted themselves in more than one category for the breakdown of these demographics.*

Demographics

Computer giveaway recipients

Between ages 18 - 24	83
Aged 65+	28
Women	438
Made under \$30,000	510
Don't speak English at home	223
Live in rural or remote communities	111
Not Canadian citizens	253
Not born in Canada	287
Indigenous	202
Did not complete high school	190
Have a disability	129



Project #4

Pivot from in-person classes to equipment delivery with learning materials

May 2020 - Present

Computer Recipient Testimonials

"The computer itself is a huge help for me. I am now able to research, use Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, and so many other things. The videos and pamphlet helped me understand how to set up a computer and use it without getting frustrated or confused, or needing anyone's help. I very much appreciate this program that helps kids and students as well as people with low-income able to use a computer and have a computer of their own. I no longer need to go to the library or ask someone to borrow their computer. Thank you!"

- Desirae Lavallee



"I learned more about the computer and what the icons were used for. Different programs on the computer. It has been a valuable tool for me to access information. Since the pandemic started it was really stressful. Being able to continue to maintain some form of contact with the outside world is paramount to maintaining a sense of connection. Online programs, workshops, educational opportunities, even music has been beneficial to my overall health. Taking advantage of online programs teaching me about my culture is also beneficial. All the while feeling comfortable in this new way of being. So miigwech (thank you) for this wonderful opportunity."

- Joanne Nimik,
Winnipeg



"It is very helpful that I got a desktop computer for my kids' online school. Before that they had to join school by phone and then we rented a Chromebook from school. But now me and my children can use the computer with confidence, because it is ours. I was worried that my kids would somehow damage the Chromebook that we rented from school. Also, this computer is good for my children's eyes."

- Ghebrebrhan Tsegay Ghebremeskel,
Winnipeg



Project #5

Pivoted to online classes

July 2021 - Present

Problem:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the program pivoted to online classes to deliver the training opportunities. The team encountered three major logistical challenges during this online transition: course registration, course advertising, and instructor submission of reporting.

The pivot required the team to simplify registration for students, reduce the burden of reporting on instructors and refocus marketing away from tactics that were proving to be ineffective. Another key challenge was that potential participants didn't know how to use a computer, email or a video conferencing App, such as Zoom.

Action:

To address these challenges, DigitALL created Tech Tuesdays hosted on Zoom and developed four new courses for Google Suite. The team offered this online training on a weekly basis for people looking for basic technology training. Participants also had an option to register over the phone and receive basic instructions to sign into Zoom and access an email address.

The team gained complete control of the advertising, course registration and reporting using Eventbrite and Google Forms. This streamlined reporting for instructors, simplified registration for participants, and allowed to market courses on a single webpage.

To address the participants' knowledge gap with email and Zoom, and especially, lack of confidence with computers, the team assisted students over the phone prior to the class and instructed them how to access all the programs needed to attend their online classes.

Outcomes:

Tech Tuesday courses were highly successful, proving to be a cost-effective way to reach people from not only Manitoba but across Canada and other parts of the world. Since April 2021, 419 participants have been trained via a Tech Tuesday class. In the first quarter, DigitALL offered Tech Tuesdays (Q2 Y4, July-September 2021), and trained more than triple the number of participants in the same quarter from the year before (Q2 Y3, July-September 2020). DigitALL's total control of registration, marketing, and reporting through Eventbrite and Google Forms made it easier for more people to access the initiative's training and increase their digital literacy.

Project #5

Pivoted to online classes

July 2021 - Present

Digital Literacy Course Testimonials

"I think I will be able to communicate with others (digitally) with more confidence and security, which will help my mind to stay healthy by learning and sharing. I may be able to eventually try to earn income with these skills, and certainly taking this course has been wonderful for my mood. I have chronic depression and anxiety."

**- Cristina Chotka,
Brandon**



"Now, after taking this course, I won't have trouble using certain formats in the excel program, I was actually missing steps in this program and couldn't figure out why or what I was doing wrong."

**- Grace Ross,
Thompson**



"The instructor was very informative and patient with her explanations. It will help me work on google drive with my classmates in English class and for sure to collaborate with coworkers in the future for main projects. Thank you Ziyang!"

**- Yonit Kulnev,
Winnipeg**



Project #5

Pivot from in-person classes to equipment delivery with learning materials

May 2020 - Present

Instructor Testimonials

"I have had the pleasure of teaching a few classes for Tech Manitoba's Digital Literacy program so far. It has been a very fulfilling experience for me. Every class was different in terms of the student numbers, backgrounds, and abilities. I have taught students who are newcomers, retirees, and people from all over the world. Regardless of where they come from, the students have all been very responsive and eager to learn.

And I have enjoyed adapting my teaching to suit their pace of learning and abilities level. I always leave the class with a good feeling that I have helped someone. Moreover, the staff at TechMB are very easy to work with and always happy to answer any questions I may have. The Digital Literacy Program is making a difference in people's lives by bridging the barrier in digital literacy among people, especially those who are marginalized or underserved. I feel privileged to be involved in and contribute to this program."

- Ziying Li

"It was my pleasure to teach with Tech Manitoba for the duration of the DigitALL program. This program enabled our organization - Westman Immigrant Services - to target many individuals in the community who needed development of their digital literacy. Our current funding is limited to Permanent Residents and addresses ESL but not digital literacy; having the opportunity to team up with Tech Manitoba to offer the DigitALL programs helped us enhance our current programming and include all interested Manitobans. This was especially timely given the move to online learning and the need for people to remain "connected" (over the past two years due to the Pandemic).

"Working with Tech Manitoba also helped me grow as an instructor. It gave me the opportunity to approach technology with a different mindset; that of the digitally challenged. It helped me to be more cognizant of how to recognize and help develop the digital needs of Manitobans. It also helped me to keep up to date with the evolving world of digital technology. This type of programming is essential, and I was happy to be part of a proactive team in providing it to the community."

- Lesley Kretai,
Westman Immigrant Services

Project #6

Training teachers online during COVID 19 lockdown

April 2020-December 2020

Problem:

When schools moved to remote learning during the first COVID-19 lockdown, teachers had to deliver virtual classes, some for the first time. School divisions across the province shared their concern with Tech Manitoba about the lack of experience that most staff had to support students on platforms like Microsoft Teams for Education and Google for Education.

Action:

DigitALL partnered with companies and organizations to develop custom online sessions for K-12 teachers and train them how to deliver lessons on Microsoft Teams and Google for Education. The training ran online 2-3 times a week for two months.

Compugen Inc., an IT service provider and Tech Manitoba member, provided the team with a learning development specialist to conduct the Microsoft training. Adrienne DiFonzo-Veneziano, with support from Elise Coppola, provided hundreds of hours to custom develop content and created an entire resource centre in Microsoft Teams for teachers.

A local Google Certified Trainer, a former local school teacher, Phil Taylor, was engaged by the program to develop and conduct both a Level One (Intro) and Level Two (Advanced User) course for online instruction in the Google environment.

In both the Microsoft and Google sessions, the content was tailored to the individual school division and the participant's level of ability. Each division operates with slightly different policies and feature options and so additional attention to detail was needed to ensure the teachers and administrators learned exactly how to implement the tools in their own particular situation.



Project #6

Training teachers online during COVID 19 lockdown

April 2020-December 2020

Outcomes:

In total 38 training sessions were delivered, training 1,350 Manitoba teachers on how to stay connected with their classrooms and teach remotely during the pandemic. The demand for this support and training was very real and very strong during a time when teachers had no other options but to use technology to connect with their classrooms. The team quickly stepped up to meet these demands, despite their own challenges navigating how to work from home.

School divisions served during the first COVID-19 lockdown

Pembina Trails School Division

Sunrise School Division

River East Transcona School Division

Brandon School Division

Rolling River School Division

St James-Assiniboine School Division

Frontier School Division

Garden Valley School Division

Winnipeg #1 School Division

Southwest Horizon School Division

Beautiful Plains School Division

Portage la Prairie School Division

Project #7

Parent training google classroom during COVID 19 lockdown in Winnipeg

May 2020

Problem:

Many parents lacked the knowledge and resources to keep up with the virtual homeschooling of their children during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Action:

DigitALL hired a Google certified instructor to deliver two half-day training courses to teach parents how to use Google Classroom and navigate all of its applications. This training was delivered online and the instructor created an online platform for parents to ask questions after the sessions.



Outcomes:

The course participation was a success and participants surpassed expectations by 50 per cent. In total, 40 parents joined the training sessions to learn the digital skills to actively participate in their children's transition to virtual homeschooling.



Project #8

Pre-service Teacher Conference

September 2021

Problem:

Re-educating existing teachers is difficult and time-consuming. Embracing technology integration into the classroom requires technical skills, but more so a shift in culture and outlook as to the role of the classroom teacher. There are also gaps between teacher education programs in the Faculties of Education and the employment of new teachers in the schools. Statistics indicate that 50% of new teachers leave the profession in the first 5 years.

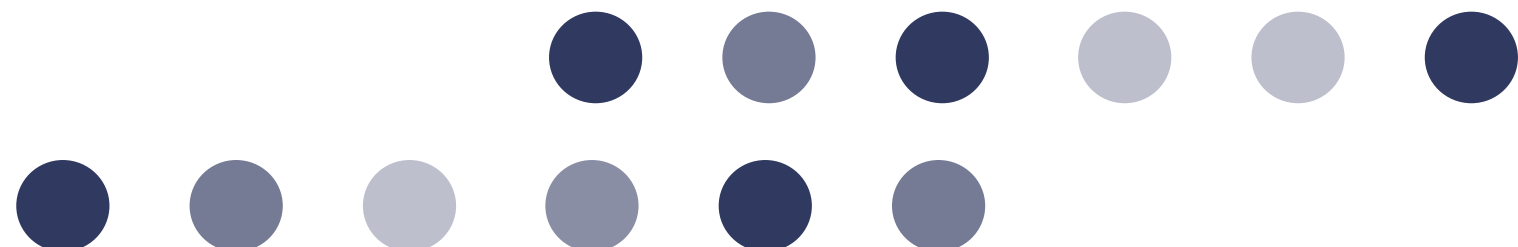
The DigitAll program made a concerted effort in the final year of the program to focus on “Pre-Service Teachers” as they prepared to leave the university and enter into the 21st century classroom. DigitALL hosted an online professional development conference for Pre-Service Teachers in Manitoba called **The New Normal School**. The half-day virtual conference focused on digital literacy, tech-integrated learning, and pre-service teacher preparedness to get ready for the demands of the in-person and online classroom.

Note: Tech Manitoba faced a staffing gap during the organization of this conference. This gap resulted in the team stepping up and taking a more active role in content development and event execution.

Action:

Tech Manitoba has a deep network of relationships with educational institutions and support organizations across Manitoba, and a long legacy of hosting incredible conferences, events, and meetups ranging from five to 500 guests.

The team leveraged these resources and relationships to create, plan and deliver a conference with an impeccable agenda, experienced speakers, and four panels. The team also created online Padlets so attendees could keep all of the valuable open resources they received during the conference.



Project #8

Pre-service Teacher Conference

September 2021

Action continued:

The Pre-service Teacher Conference was hosted on 'Remo' and utilized online resources to build the multi-platform online event.

The agenda featured keynote Dr. Glenys MacLeod and four panels packed with passionate Manitoba educators. The panels focused on Project-based learning, Open Educational Resources & Practices, Digital realities in Manitoba (an academic study looking into the impacts of poor connectivity in rural school division), and Podcasts in the classroom designed to inspire attendees and foster digital literacy.

The team also created networking opportunities for attendees. The virtual "Coffee with Teachers" allowed educators to visit virtually and discuss relevant topics, meet panelists, and explore partner tables for more information on available services and resources. At the end of the programming there was also time for attendees to ask more questions and engage with other participants.

Outcome:

The team's resiliency, ability to pivot and take ownership of the Pre-service Teacher Conference was outstanding. DigitALL forged relationships across Manitoba's educational institutions that will outlast this program.

In total, the conference welcomed 18 speakers, 7 partners, and 77 participants who joined from across Manitoba and other provinces. The Pre-service Teacher Conference channeled DigitALL's strategic aim of improving digital literacy and tech integration in the classroom and in the lives of future teachers and students.

The sessions were also recorded and distributed to the attendees immediately after the conference and live on Tech Manitoba's [YouTube page](#) as a resource for all educators.

Project #8

Pre-service Teacher Conference

September 2021

Demographics

The Pre-service Teacher Conference speakers and partners

Speakers	Role	Conference Role
Dr.Glenys MacLeod	Executive Director of the Learning and Outcomes Branch with Manitoba Education	Keynote
Dr.Verena Roberts	University of Calgary	Panel: Open Educational Resources
Nicole Neutzing	University of Calgary	Panel: Open Educational Resources
Dylan Woodcock	Campus Manitoba	Panel: Open Educational Resources
Jane Bachart	Principal,PTEC	Panel: Project Based Learning
Margo Beatty	Workplace Learning Coordinator,PTEC	Panel: Project Based Learning
Marie Hacault	Project Manager,Tech Manitoba	Panel: Project Based Learning
Charlene Smallwood	Principal,Nelson McIntyre Collegiate and the Propel program	Panel: Project Based Learning
Matt Henderson	Superintendent,7 Oaks SD	Panel: Project Based Learning
Matt Patrician	Red River College Teacher Education – Industrial Arts	Panel: Project Based Learning

Continued on next page....

Project #8

Pre-service Teacher Conference

September 2021

Demographics

The Pre-service Teacher Conference speakers and partners

Speakers	Role	Conference Role
Maribeth Tabinera	Learning Through Internship Coordinator, 7 Oaks Met School	Panel: Project Based Learning
Dr.Michelle Lam	Director of BU Cares Research Centre	Panel: Report & Podcasting
Dr.Jacqueline Kirk	Associate Professor; Chair of Leadership and Educational Administration Department,BU	Panel: Report & Podcasting
Matteo Di Muro	Brandon University	Report Co-author
Stephanie Spence	Research Assistant,Brandon University	Report Co-author
Devon Caldwell	Teacher	Panel: Podcasting
Leah Obach	Teacher	Panel: Podcasting
Adriano Magnifico	Teacher/ Career Consulting	Panel: Podcasting
Akira Sakaki	Student – Broadcast Media Program at the Louis Riel Arts & Technology Centre	Panel: Podcasting

Project #8

Pre-service Teacher Conference

September 2021

Partners

GFIT Wellness

Teach for Canada

Manitoba Education and
Early Childhood Learning

Campus Manitoba

ManACE

(Special Area Group of the Manitoba Teachers' Society)

KG Education

Merlin



Project #9

Marcel Colomb First Nation and Lynn Lake computer training

September - November 2021

First Lynn Lake Class

September 2021

Problem:

There is a lack of training, access to technology and reliable internet in remote and Indigenous communities in Manitoba. Many people on reserves don't have adequate opportunities to connect digitally with loved ones, search for employment online, or perform everyday transactions like online banking and shopping.

Colonialism in Canada's past and present and the legacy of Residential Schools have fostered distrust of the government in many Indigenous communities. Delivering this course in Lynn Lake required immense care and special consideration from the DigitALL team.

Project #9

Marcel Colomb First Nation and Lynn Lake computer training

September - November 2021

Action:

For the first class in Lynn Lake, DigitALL leveraged relationships with five partner organizations to deliver two basic digital literacy training programs for the Marcel Colomb First Nation, which were hosted in Lynn Lake.

These partners included:

- **Computers for Schools Manitoba:** Provided 12 refurbished laptops which were donated to participants at the end of the course.
- **Gardewine:** Delivered tech equipment to Thompson free of charge.
- **Northern Manitoba Sector Council:** Assisted in coordination the course and hired staff member Holly Martin to travel to Lynn Lake with the instructor to facilitate the course.
- **Michael Raess of Alamos Gold:** Assisted with coordination in the community and went above and beyond to ensure the registered participants attended.
- **Kunal Mahajan, course instructor from UCN Thompson:** Did an exceptional job teaching the course and stuck through the unpredictability of multiple schedule changes.

The team created two new Introduction to Computers presentations, specifically designing them to address the identified needs of participants. This included overhauling and updating the original "Intro to Computers" presentation to provide a refreshed version for this course. The first portion of the course focused on basic computer skills, while the second one focused on basic computer concepts such as how computers work and how to navigate the physical setup.

It took months to plan these courses and delivering this course in Lynn Lake presented many logistical challenges. The team had to work through the realities that the Lynn Lake community faces every day, which included access to clean drinking water, no internet connectivity, and ensuring each participant had access to the technology required to participate.

In addition to delivering the course, four desktop and two laptop computers were donated to the Marcel Colomb First Nation Band Office so that they community could access technology.

Project #9

Marcel Colomb First Nation and Lynn Lake computer training

September - November 2021

Outcome:

Delivering basic computer programming for the Marcel Colomb First Nation community at Lynn Lake was an enormous milestone for the program. The team was incredibly proud of the trust and partnerships built in this community and learned many valuable lessons on how to provide more programming.

The participation and overwhelming support from the community and partners reaffirmed that there is a high demand for computer literacy education in Indigenous communities.

The two-day, 12-hour “Introduction to Computers” course was well attended and welcomed 22 participants, mainly from Marcel Colomb First Nation. Each participant was able to take home a laptop computer after the completion of the course. This came as a surprise for them and brought tears to their eyes. The participants were eager to continue practicing the newly learned skills and growing confidence in computers. Many indicated that this course has opened doors to create a resume and look for a job, talk to family members who are far away and continue helping their community in transmitting the recently acquired knowledge.



Project #9

Marcel Colomb First Nation and Lynn Lake computer training

September - November 2021

Second Lynn Lake Class

November 2021

Problem:

After the first course in Lynn Lake, the team encountered many students asking for help with obtaining government issued documents such as birth certificates and photo identification.

Project #9

Marcel Colomb First Nation and Lynn Lake computer training

September - November 2021

Action:

For the second class in Lynn Lake, DigitALL leveraged relationships with five partner organizations to develop two basic digital literacy training programs for the Marcel Colomb First Nation, which were hosted in Lynn Lake.

These partners were:

- **Computers for Schools Manitoba:** Provided 10 additional laptops (allowing us to exceed the normal limit of 10 per year) and had them delivered to Thompson.
- **Gardewine:** Delivered tech equipment to Thompson free of charge.
- **Northern Manitoba Sector Council (NMSC):** Assisted in coordinating the course and hired staff members Holly Martin and April Wastecicoot to travel to Lynn Lake to facilitate and assist in the course.
- **Michael Raess and Andrew Colomb of Alamos Gold:** Assisted in coordinating, visiting former participants, knocking on doors and registering people on the spot.
- **Bonnie Lederhaus, course instructor from UCN Thompson:** Donated her community expertise and knowledge and had a major role in assisting the instructor and contributing to the ID clinic.

Ten additional laptops were purchased for this course and two refurbished desktops which the team donated to the Lynn Lake library. The computers were pre-loaded with two "Introduction to Word" presentations, so community members had ongoing access to the courses.

Partners NMSC and Alamos Gold identified that many residents in northern communities, including Lynn Lake and Marcel Colomb First Nation, had difficulty attaining government documents. Together with the team, the partners held an ID clinic alongside this class to assist community members in accessing photo ID, a health card, birth certificates, and a bank account.



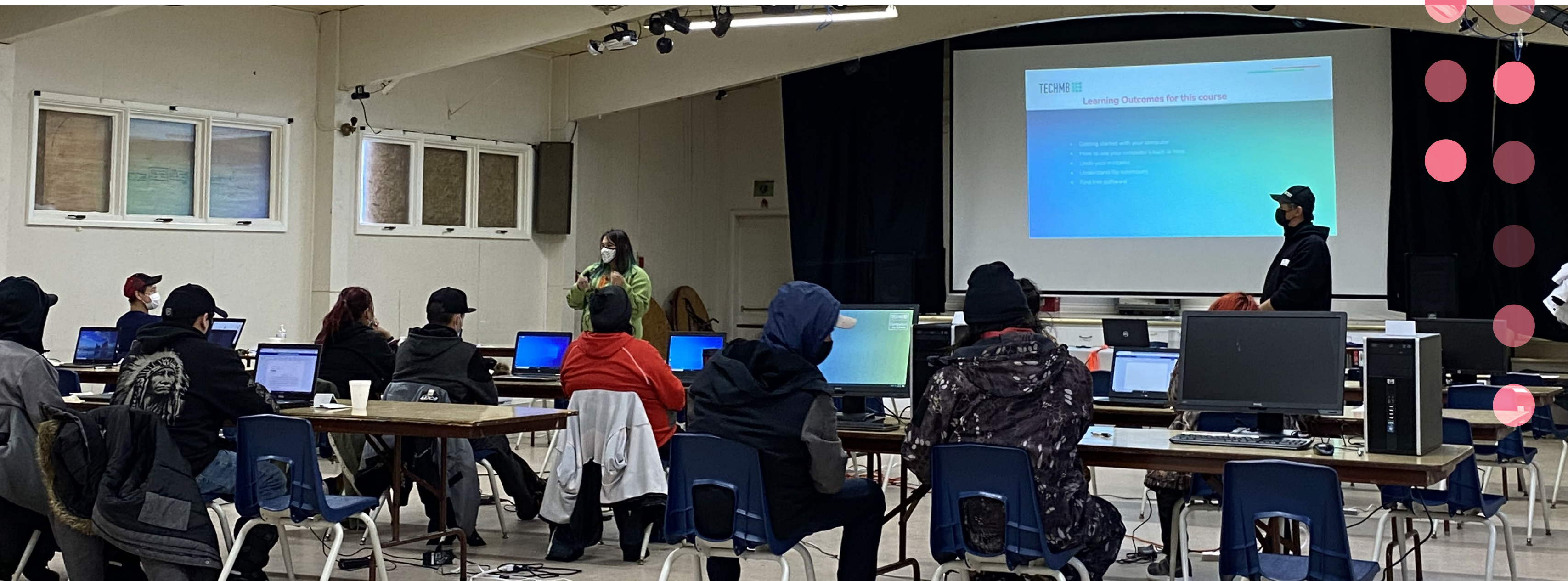
Project #9

Marcel Colomb First Nation and Lynn Lake computer training

September - November 2021

Outcome:

The second training program drew major interest from many community members. However, due to capacity, resources, and COVID -19 restrictions, all could not be accommodated. The initiative trained 24 enthusiastic learners, mainly from Marcel Colomb First Nation. The team and partners were also able to help many participants with government documents and to help them fill out forms. Four more refurbished desktop computers were donated to the Band Office for communal use.





DigitALL's legacy

As this report highlights, the program was an incredible success in creating lasting partnerships and delivering digital literacy to underserved community members and teachers across Manitoba. Throughout this program, the team adapted to community needs to develop programming that empowered people across the province.

Although funding for the program has ended, the legacy of the program continues and will be able to further support learners through a variety of assets.

Open Source Library

An online open-source library designed to foster ongoing access to digital literacy across Manitoba. Each module contains a presentation deck, curricula, lesson plans, practice exercises for the classroom and a workbook.

[Go to library](#)

Computer Basics 101 videos

To reach as many Community Learners as possible 10 computer basics videos were pre-loaded onto the refurbished computers that were donated to the public. These videos were also dubbed in Arabic and Swahili and are all available on Tech Manitoba's YouTube channel. Throughout the program the videos were also broadcast on the Shaw TV in Winnipeg and Neepawa Access Community Television in Neepawa, MB.

[Go to Youtube channel](#)

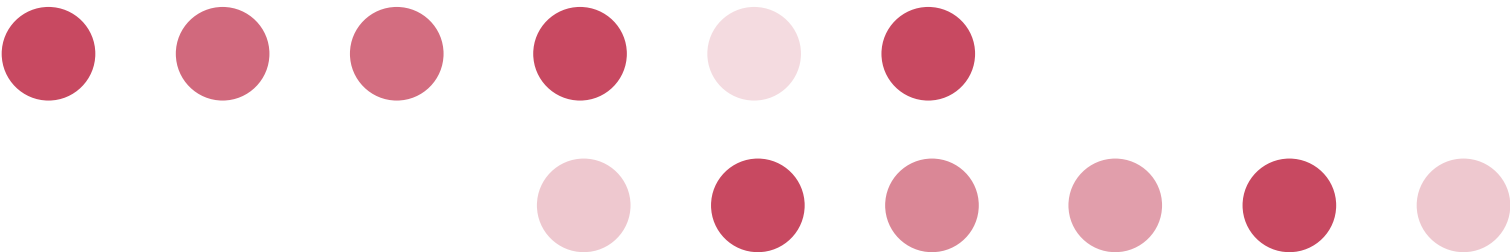
Research

Inspired by the evolving needs for digital literacy in Manitoba, Tech Manitoba worked with the Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC) to fund three research projects.

- [Rural and Remote Learning in Westman,](#)
- [Digital Realities of Manitoba School Divisions,](#)
[and](#)
- [Manitoba and a Digital-First Future: The](#)
[Implications of Connectivity for Equity and](#)
[Education.](#)

The research and programming experiences have undeniably demonstrated the importance of continued and ongoing programs rooted in digital literacy, access to technology, and investment in internet connectivity.

Tech Manitoba will continue to champion opportunities so all people have the knowledge and access to participate in this digital world.



Appendix

DigitALL would like to thank all of the incredible network partners and instructors who dedicated their time to increasing digital literacy across Manitoba.

7 Oaks Immigrant Services	Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba	Regional Connections
Age and Opportunity (A&O)	Indigenous Vision for the North End	Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet
Alamos Gold	Kelsey Learning Centre	Rural Municipality of Springfield
Binesi Training Centre	Macdonald Youth Services	Selkirk Adult Learning Centre
Brandon Literacy Council	Manitoba Education	Snow Lake Family Resource Center
Brandon University CARES Research Centre	Manitoba Metis Federation	Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
Brandon University Rural Development Institute	Manitoba Start	South Eastman English & Literacy Services
Brandon University Faculty of Education	MITT	South Interlake Fifty-Five Plus, Inc
Brokenhead Health	North End Women's Centre	Swampy Cree Nation
Brokenhead River Recreation Commission	North Forge	The Golden Agers – The Pas
Compugen Inc.	Northern Manitoba Sector Council	Training to Employment - Churchill
Computers for Schools Manitoba	UCN Regional Centre - Swan River	UCN Flin Flon
Crossroads Adult Learning Centre	Opaskwayak Educational Authority Inc.	UCN Swan River
Eagles Nest Urban Transition Centre	Pluri-Elles	UCN Thompson
Ethnocultural Council of Manitoba	Rainbow Resource Center	Westman Immigrant Services
Gardewine	Red River College Polytechnic Teacher Education	Winnipeg Public Library



Instructors

Adrianna Sawchyn

Adrienne Di Fonzo-Veneziano

Allan Wirth

Brittany Weber

Brooke McLean

Cheri Petterson

Christian Calvary

Cown Smith

David Wall

Deirdre Nelson

Dipika Koundal

Donalda Gale

Dorothy Goddard

Eva Brown

Hector Colombo

Holly Martin

Howard Warren

James Warren

Jessica Lister

Joanne Walker

John Tran

Kathy Knight

Kelly Seifert-Clarkson

Kunal Mahajan

Lesley Kretai

Lorinda Fosty

Lucille Miller

Mandeep Gohlan

Marina Villagran Ezzahir

Marshall Mays

Nalini Ranganath

Neha Mahajan

Nicole Tornquist

Nikhat Merchant

Pam Greenlay

Pat Barry

Phil Taylor

Phyllis Crow

Rafael Reyes

Rauni Bereztizky

Richard Venzon

Robert Ross

Saima Aziz

Saul Henteleff

Shivani Kashyap

Sondos Gad

Susan Flett-Young

Suzanne Barbeau

Tara Manych

Val Pankratz

Ziying Li

